(b) whether it is a fact that the employees of defence canteens under this Ministry are treated as casual employees, and not as Central Government employees;

(c) whether the Jodhpur Central Administrative Tribunal had declared in 1994 the Defence canteen employees as Central Government staff and the Supreme Court also had declared them as Central Government Staff *vide* its order in the Civil Appeal No. 1039-40, 1999; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what is the reason for delay in implementing the orders?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) There are at present 3692 Unit Run Canteens (URCs) functioning in different formations/units of the three services and other organizations. As per reports received from the services, there are about 2300 employees working in these Unit Run Canteens. In the case filed by Mohd. Aslam & others, CAT, Jodhpur ordered for treating civilian workers of URCs as Government employees. In the appeal filed by Government against the CAT order, the Supreme Court held in 2001 that such workers could be treated as Government employees which however, *ipso facto* would not entitle them to get all service benefits as is available to regular Government servant or even their counterparts serving in CSD canteens and separate rules could be framed regulating their terms and conditions of service. While the Government had different views on status of URC employees as Government servants, separate terms and conditions were prescribed for employees of Unit Run Canteens. In another subsequent SLP (Civil) No. 8586 of 2003 filed by Shri R.R. Pillai, the Supreme Court decided to reconsider the decision taken in the case of Union of India *Vs.* Mohd Aslam. The matter is at present *sub-judice*.

Overstay of armed forces personnel at IDSA

4475. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of research projects completed by serving armed forces personnel under the Fellowship Scheme at the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis since September, 2000 onwards, till date;

(b) the details and the number of armed forces personnel who are still continuing in IDSA, despite lapse of extendable period up to four years, as per the norms under the Scheme;

(c) whether there are specific reasons to retain their services as well as Service Members at the Institute *vis-a-vis* their repatriation to their parent cadre ignoring the national interest; and

(d) the details of all the foreign travels undertaken by armed forces personnel deputed at IDSA since September, 2000 onwards, till date?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) 28 Research Projects have been completed by serving armed forces personnel under the Fellowship Scheme at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) since September, 2000 till date on subjects such as structure of Indian Army, terrorism, counter-terrorism strategy, modernization of Army, security scenario in the Asia Pacific region etc.

(b) and (c) One Officer from Air Force is with the IDSA for over four years at present. The officer is completing research in a field important from military point of view, and for which no other suitable researcher is available. The officer has been retained at the Institute's request and with the consent of the Air Force, which does not envisage any operational role for the officer.

(d) 8 Armed Forces personnel deputed at IDSA have undertaken 38 foreign travels since September, 2000 till date. These visits were made to neighbouring countries, Germany, US, Italy, Canada, etc. to participate in Seminars/Conferences of Military importance and were relevant to their research subjects.

Filling of vacant posts in Rajya Sainik Boards and Zila Sainik Boards

4476. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had asked the State Government to fill vacant posts in the Rajya Sainik Boards and Zila Sainik Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;